

REMARKS

SUMMARY

Consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-37 are now in the application. Claims 14-37 have been added, but are based in substantial part upon the originally filed claims 1-13. Claims 1-13 have been cancelled.

A substitute specification is provided to help place the application in proper idiomatic English and provide required and suggested headings (e.g., Background, Technical Field, Summary, etc.) in proper context and other application components for national stage U.S. applications.

Moreover, various clear administrative and/or typographical errors within the specification were also corrected. For example, in paragraph [0014] “closing” was replaced with “stabilizing” in accordance with similar text found on page 11, line 2, and in Claim 1, line 5 of the original PCT application.

The above-noted changes to the claims and specification are provided solely for clarification or cosmetic reasons. The changes are neither provided to overcome the prior art, nor do they narrow the scope of the claim for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Please note that the application claims priority to European Patent Application No. 030 06 238.4, filed March 20, 2003, the International Priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119; German Application No. 203 05 922.0, filed April 11, 2003, the International Priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119; and International Application No. PCT/EP2004/006261, filed June 1, 2003, the Priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120.

No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendments to either the claims or the specification.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, consideration and allowance of claims 14-37 is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1509. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
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